

This Request for Continued Examination is submitted in an abundance of caution simply to place certain references before the Examiner for consideration. The references are referred to in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement presented herewith.

In addition, the undersigned properly and timely submitted a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) on or about June 9, 2003 for which the undersigned has not yet received an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 that accompanied the June 9, 2003 Supplemental IDS. A courtesy duplicate copy of the June 9, 2003 Supplemental IDS is attached hereto, together with the accompanying Form PTO-1449 and evidence of the undersigned's timely and proper submission of said Supplemental IDS.

Further, on March 7, 2003, the undersigned filed a Supplemental Response to an Office Action Response that was filed on February 19, 2003. Accordingly, one response was filed on February 19 and one was filed on March 7 (in response to an in-person interview between the undersigned and the Examiner). It is not clear from PAIR whether both such responses have been entered, or whether the December 23, 2003 Notice of Allowance was indeed based upon Applicant's amended claims submitted on March 7, 2003. A courtesy duplicate copy of the March 7, 2003 Supplemental Response and evidence of submission thereof is also included herewith. Clarification of this issue on the record is requested.

This application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance,  
and action to that end is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 3-22-04

By: 

Mark S. Matkin  
Reg. No. 32,268